

APRIL 14TH CAMP 2

IT WAS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE THAT OUR TENT SURVIVED THE HOWLING GALES THAT PERSISTED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. I THOUGHT WE MAY DO A MARY POPPINS INTO THE KHUMBU ICEFALL.

AT 6.00AM AFTER A RADIO CALL WITH RODRIGO IT WAS DECIDED THAT WE WERE GOING TO MOVE UP TO CAMP 2 TODAY. OUR BAGS HAD TO BE READY AT 6.40AM FOR THE SHERPAS TO TAKE UP. I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW STRONGLY I FEEL THAT EVEREST IS UNCLIMBABLE WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE SHERPAS. THEY ARE TRULY AMAZING.

WE HAD BREAKFAST AT 830AM AN THEN I WENT AND DID ANOTHER CHAT WITH THE DISCOVERY TEAM DURING THE BRIEF BREAKS FROM THE ICY WINDS. THEIR CAMERAMAN FRANKIE, FINDS IT ALMOST WARM HERE (HE LIVES IN CANADA) AND I WAS AMAZED TO SEE HE WASN'T WEARING A PARKA OR GLOVES!!!

MISAIL, ANDRONICO, MYSELF AND PALDE OUR COOK, HEADED UP TO CAMP 2. THE LADDERS ARE NOW UNBELIEVABLE SHAKEY AS YOU CROSS THEM, I GUESS ALL THE WEAR AND TEAR OF LOADS BEING FERRIED UP TO CAMP 2.

A HUGE AVALANCHE HAD SLIPPED FROM THE SIDE OF NUPTSE TO COVER OUR ROUTE, I DON'T THINK WE WOULD BE AROUND TO TELL THE TALE IF THE AVALANCHE HAD CAUGHT US. IT TOOK US 1 HOUR 5 MINS TO REACH CAMP 2, I WAS FEELING FINE UNTIL ABOUT 15 MINS AWAY FROM OUR TENT WHEN SUDDENLY ALL MY ENERGY WAS GONE. I WAS PAINFULLY SLOW WALKING TO OUR CAMPSITE AND THEN REVITALIZED MYSELF WITH A CHOCOLATE BISCUIT. THIS IS OUR ADVANCED BASE CAMP SO IM TRYING TO MAKE THE TENT AS HOMELY AS POSSIBLE AS WE MAY SPEND SOME TIME HERE. WE ARE AT 21,500 FEET AND IT WILL BE THE HIGHEST THAT I HAVE SLEPT BEFORE. IM NOW CHILLING IN MY TENT, HAVING HAD A VERY GARLICKY MEAL COOKED BY PALDE.

THE PLAN IS TOMORROW THAT WE HEAD DIRECTLY DOWN TO BASE CAMP SHOULD TAKE US AROUND 5 HOURS. IM NOW IN A HEATED DISCUSSION WITH ANDRONICO AS TO WHO WILL WEAR THE KNEE PADS!!!!

IM TORN WITH DYING TO BE BACK AT BASE CAMP AND THE FACT THAT WE WILL HAVE TO SCHLEPP ALL THE WAY BACK UP TO CAMP 2 AFTER SOME REST AT BC.

WE ARE ALL IN GOOD SPIRITS, I CANNOT WAIT TO WASH MY HAIR..IHAVENT HAD A SHOWER SINCE KHUMJUNG CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, MORE THAT 2 WEEKS!!!! ADIOS FROM CAMP 2.